

MEMORANDUM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



DATE: June 30, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors Members

FROM: Lisa Robertson

RE: Information about Pump and Haul Systems

Recently, Vicki Lam contacted me and the Health Department, to inquire about the permissibility of Pump and Haul sewerage systems in Madison County. In Ms. Lam's opinion, if the Board of Supervisors were to allow these systems, that would be one way to provide individuals with a means of putting buildings into use for commercial or other purposes. She gave as an example the old Criglersville store, which she and her family own.

As a general rule, pumping and hauling on a permanent basis is prohibited, unless done under the supervision of a government entity, such as the local board of supervisors. Pumping and hauling for a period of more than one year is considered permanent. 12VAC5-610-599. A number of counties allow permanent pump and haul systems as the means for providing sewerage disposal, including Culpeper, Greene and Shenandoah counties. According to state regulations, the government entity must enter into a contract with the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Health, agreeing to provide pump and haul services, either directly or through a private contractor who holds a sewage handling permit. Culpeper and Shenandoah counties both use written agreements with individual property owners to implement terms and conditions under which the pump and haul systems will be constructed/installed on specific properties. Also, Culpeper and Shenandoah both require a determination that there is no other alternative to a pump and haul system for a specific site.

Once a system is installed, there must be an ongoing contractual relationship with a commercial hauler who has a sewage handling permit. There must also be identified a facility which will accept the sewage that's hauled away from the system. RSA does not accept this type of sewage, so the Greene County properties that have this system use haulers that transport the waste to Rivanna. Culpeper has a treatment plant, and in Shenandoah County the waste is accepted by the Maurertown Sanitary District.

If you are interested in pursuing this further, let me know. We would need to apply to the state for a permit; draft contract documents and the terms/conditions of a local program; verify whether, as a practical matter, there would be sufficient haulers and "receiving" facilities for the waste; and identify the County personnel who would be in charge of oversight of the program.

Attachments:

- (1) Shenandoah County's ordinance and list of submission requirements
- (2) Culpeper County's Pump and Haul Agreement